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C Haskins R.

Prof. Thayer,

With the respects of
D. G. Haskins, Jr.

MEMOIR
OF
RALPH HASKINS:

BY
DAVID GREENE HASKINS, JR.

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RALPH HASKINS

RALPH HASKINS was born in Boston, April 5, 1779. He was the son of John and Hannah (Upham) Haskins, and the youngest of sixteen children.

His father, John Haskins, was an old and much respected citizen of Boston, where he was born, March 12, 1729. In early life a cooper, in partnership with his step-father, Thomas Hake, he later became a distiller, and amassed a handsome property, principally in real estate. He was a man of distinguished integrity, a firm Episcopalian,* and of conservative politics, although he seems to have sympathized with the Whigs in the early stages of the Revolutionary agitation. He remained in Boston during the siege, but, immediately after the evacuation of the town by the British, took the oath of allegiance to the State. Before the Revolution he was interested in military matters, and was lieutenant, and in 1772 captain, of a company in the Boston Regiment. His house stood on Rainsford's Lane, now Harrison Avenue; and his estate extended from that street to Washington Street,

* Captain Haskins was for many years a worshipper at King's Chapel, and in 1785 was one of a committee chosen by the proprietors to consider the question of amending the Prayer-Book. He dissented from the conclusions of a majority of this committee; and a manuscript in his handwriting is now in the writer's possession, in which, after citing a multitude of Scriptural texts in opposition to the Unitarian views of the majority, he vigorously protested against "those horrid principles," to adopt which, he declared, "in my opinion is denying the Faith, and to become worse than infidels." He protested, with others, against the subsequent ordination of the Rev. James Freeman, and thenceforth worshipped at Trinity Church.

opposite to the Boylston Market. He died at an advanced age, October 27, 1814.

Robert Haskins, the father of John, and the first of the name of whom we have any trace, came to Boston, according to family tradition, in the early part of the last century. He there married, in 1728, Sarah, the daughter of Philip Cook, of Cambridge, and died about the year 1730 of small-pox, during the infancy of his only child, John. His origin is unknown. One tradition relates that he came to Boston from Virginia, where he left numerous relatives; according to another version, he came from England with a brother, and settled in Boston. The brother went to Virginia, where there are families of the name now settled.

Hannah Upham, the mother of Ralph Haskins, was the daughter of Phineas and Hannah (Waite) Upham, of Malden. She was born May 6, 1734; was married to John Haskins, March 12, 1752; and died in Boston, September 18, 1819. She was a descendant of Deacon John Upham, who settled in Weymouth as early as 1635, and who removed thence to Malden. On her mother's side, she was descended from Captain John Waite, of Malden, Speaker, in 1684, of the Massachusetts House of Deputies; also from John Howland, of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and from a sister of President Dunster, of Harvard College. At her death, her son Ralph wrote of her: "She has performed all the duties of life well. With truth it may be said, she was one of the best of mothers, best of wives, best of Christians, and best of women."

Of the sixteen children of John and Hannah Haskins, thirteen—four sons and nine daughters—lived to an advanced age, and ten were married. It is a remarkable fact that, for a space of sixty-one years,—from November 5, 1761, to December 14, 1822,—not a death occurred among them. The oldest son, John, graduated at Harvard College in 1781, and studied medicine, but later

engaged in mercantile pursuits, which were more congenial to his taste. The three other sons received simply a school education. Of the daughters, three were married to clergymen, — one of them, Ruth, becoming the wife of the Rev. William Emerson, of Harvard, Massachusetts, and the mother of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Captain John Haskins and his wife were both endowed with strong and deeply religious characters; and their children were carefully trained in principles of virtue and piety. An interesting and characteristic anecdote has been preserved of the Captain, which is worth relating for the glimpse it affords of his home life. One day, while the family were at dinner, the distillery, which adjoined his house, was discovered to be on fire. The children started eagerly from their places, but were instantly checked by their father. Calling them back to the table, he returned thanks, according to his custom, "The Lord be praised for this and all his mercies." "Now," he added, "you may go."

Ralph, the youngest of this numerous family, was baptized at Trinity Church, April 6, 1779, — Ralph Inman, of Cambridge, the eminent Tory merchant, and Mr. and Mrs. Rowe being his god-parents. He is believed to have received his early education from Master Ticknor, at the South-End Grammar School, and in 1790 entered the Boston Latin School, then under the charge of the famous Master Hunt. After leaving school, he was placed in the counting-room of Theodore Lyman, one of the leading merchants of Boston, who treated him with a kindness which made a strong impression upon the young man.

The adventurous and lucrative fur-trade on the north-west coast of America was at this time almost monopolized by Boston merchants. The voyages of the great navigator, Captain Cook, whose journals were published in 1784-85, had first called attention to this busi-

ness, which had previously been carried on only by Russian traders. Cook's description of the abundance and beauty of the skins of the sea-otter, and of the high prices to be obtained for them in China, created a great sensation; and English traders at once engaged in the business, which at first produced enormous profits. The merchants of Boston were not far behind their English brethren; and in 1787 the first American expedition to the north-west coast sailed from that port. This was followed by many others, and at the close of the century the business was almost wholly in the hands of the Boston traders. The most eminent merchants engaged in the traffic. Their ships, well-armed, and loaded with assorted cargoes of West India goods, English manufactured articles, wines and spirits, fire-arms, and trifles, sailed around Cape Horn, and, after remaining many months on the inhospitable shores of Alaska and British America, bartering these articles for otter-skins with the treacherous natives, proceeded to Canton, touching on the way for provisions at the Sandwich Islands, and, after exchanging the skins for teas, porcelain, silks, &c., returned to Boston around the Cape of Good Hope, — the whole voyage occupying from two to three years.

Young Haskins had long felt the common boyish desire to see the world; and his wishes were destined to be gratified. In the year 1800, at the age of twenty-one years, he was intrusted with the charge of one of these expeditions, as supercargo of the ship *Atahualpa*, Captain Dixey Wildes, owned by Messrs. Lyman, Kirk Boott, and William Pratt.

He sailed from Boston August 31, and, after a long passage around Cape Horn, arrived March 20, 1801, on the north-west coast. The ship was of two hundred and nine tons, mounted eight guns, and had a cargo of broadcloth, flannel, blankets, powder, muskets, watches, tools, beads, wire, looking-glasses, and various other articles. He

remained eighteen months on the coast, till the close of September, 1802, cruising up and down through the dangerous waters of the great north-western archipelago, from the forty-eighth to the fifty-ninth parallels of latitude, trading with the capricious and treacherous natives, repeatedly baffled by contrary winds, and encountering constant perils. During this time, so many other vessels were on the coast that the Indians were able to demand and obtain high prices for their furs; and the results of the traffic were disappointing to the most of those concerned in it. Mr. Haskins's high hopes of brilliant success were not realized. He prosecuted the business unflinchingly, with all his native energy and perseverance; but the prolonged stay on the coast grew exceedingly tedious to him, and he became impatient to return to his friends and his home.

"The navigation here," he wrote to Mr. Lyman, "is more hazardous and the business worse than I expected, especially the inland navigation. Sunken rocks, strong tides, fogs, calms, no bottom for anchoring, and a large proportion of bad weather are among the difficulties we are obliged to combat." His companions were uncongenial; the natives were, in his own words, "the most filthy creatures imaginable"; the country was gloomy and forbidding, — "a country (he wrote) which Nature never formed for the habitation of human beings. It consists of craggy, snowy mountains, thrown promiscuously together, and much intersected by arms of the sea; it is covered from the summits to the water's edge with immense forests of pines, dreary and impenetrable. Eagles and ravens are almost the only species of the feathered tribe which the horror of such gloomy regions has not driven to seek a more desirable abode." "What I have learned," he wrote to his sister Elizabeth, in answer to her inquiries, "is little else than patience under head-winds and calms, and five or six different Indian languages."*

* Mr. Haskins's diary, kept in Boston, after his return from this voyage, contains several passages written in the Indian tongue.

The well-chosen books which he carried with him, some of them parting gifts from his mother, and which he used to read until late in the night, afforded him his principal enjoyment. "I esteem them invaluable," he said in the same letter, "having realized that Montesquieu thought correctly when he wrote that to be fond of reading was to have the power of changing those moments of lassitude which visit every one into the most delicious moments of existence."

At last, after some thirty-five hundred skins and twenty-four hundred tails of the sea-otter, with a few other furs, had been collected, the Atahualpa sailed September 30, 1802, for China, touching for supplies at the Sandwich Islands. Here she was visited by the King, the celebrated Kamehameha, to whom Mr. Haskins presented a cutlass, a large looking-glass, and some red cloth.

On the 8th of December the ship anchored in Macao Roads. Mr. Haskins made arrangements with the captain and supercargo of the Boston ship Alert, which was also from the north-west coast, to share with them a small factory in Canton, in which they lived while they bargained for their cargoes with native merchants. The skins sold for twenty dollars, and the tails for two dollars, each ; and, after investing the proceeds in teas, silks, porcelains, satins, sugar, &c., to the value of over fifty-seven thousand dollars, Mr. Haskins sailed for home February 6, 1803, and, passing the Cape of Good Hope safely, arrived in Boston Harbor June 17, after an absence of ten hundred and twenty days. He kept a full journal of this long voyage in three large folio volumes, — a few extracts from which, after his return, were published in the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, through the agency of his brother-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Emerson. These extracts contained the first published intimation of the existence of the great river Stikine.

On his return to Boston, Mr. Haskins received and

accepted an advantageous offer from Mr. Lyman, in accordance with which he immediately hired one-half of the store No. 66 Long Wharf, and went into business in connection with that gentleman. At the end of two years this arrangement was terminated. Mr. Haskins, at this time, received a very favorable proposition to establish himself in Canton, in connection with a highly respectable Boston house; but the memory of his long exile on the north-west coast was too fresh in his mind, and he felt so great a reluctance to separate himself again from his family and friends that he declined the offer. He remained in Boston, and for many years was actively engaged there in extensive and varied business. He was associated as a ship-owner with Edward Cruft, Benjamin W. Lamb, and other well-known Boston merchants, and carried on trade with domestic and European ports, Honduras, the north-west coast, &c.; also, after his separation from Mr. Lyman, he did some business as a commission merchant. In 1809, with his brother Thomas, Samuel D. Harris, and Thomas Hill, Jr., he purchased a distillery on Essex Street, and thereafter for many years, in addition to his other business, was engaged in the manufacture of New England rum, which he shipped to the southward. During the war of 1812, he became interested in the domestic manufacture of cotton and woollen cloths. With Charles W. Greene, Richard D. Harris, and Benjamin W. Lamb, he established on South Street, in Boston, a cloth factory, of which he took the management, but which, in consequence of the peace with Great Britain, came to a disastrous termination. He was also a stockholder and director of the Bristol Cotton Manufacturing Company, established at Dighton, Massachusetts.

While thus actively engaged in business, Mr. Haskins became much interested in military matters. In 1810 the Boston Hussars were organized, — a brilliant and dashing

cavalry company, distinguished by its costly and beautiful uniform, and by the high social standing of its members, nearly fifty in number, among whom may be mentioned Richard D. and Samuel D. Harris, Robert G. Shaw, Richard Sullivan, William Sturgis, and Edward Jeffries. The Hon. Josiah Quincy was the first captain of the company; and Mr. Haskins, who was an accomplished horseman, seems to have been among its original and most active members. March 21, 1811, he was appointed sergeant, and about the same time treasurer, of the company. In 1812 he was clerk. May 3, 1814, he was elected cornet, and April 25, 1816, first lieutenant, which last office he resigned in February, 1817. Dressed in the brilliant uniform of the Prussian Hussars, well-mounted, and carrying long heavy sabres, and a beautiful standard presented to them by Lieutenant-Governor William Phillips, of Boston, the company attracted great attention. Their dress consisted of a tight-fitting green jacket with showy trimmings, green trousers, a scarlet pelisse trimmed with black fur, and worn on the left shoulder, and a high square-topped hat, with a red and black plume.

During the war of 1812, when the coast of Massachusetts was threatened by English cruisers, the Hussars discarded their showy uniform, and were kept well-drilled and ready for instant service. In 1814 they were under orders, in case of alarm, whether by day or night, to assemble in Chauncy Place, Boston, with flints, cartridges, &c., complete for duty; but their services were never required.*

Mr. Haskins was also a member for some years of the Washington Fire Company, of Boston. Among other associations of which he was a member may be men-

* The writer is indebted for valuable reminiscences of this brilliant company to the venerable Moses Williams, Esq., of Jamaica Plain, who is now (January, 1880), with one exception, its sole surviving member.

tioned the Episcopal Charitable Society, the Humane Society, and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He became a resident member of the New England Historic, Genealogical Society, January 5, 1848.

March 24, 1814, Mr. Haskins was married at Boston by the Rev. Dr. Gardiner, Rector of Trinity Church, to Miss Rebecca, the eldest daughter of David and Rebecca (Rose) Greene, of Boston. Mr. Greene was a graduate of Harvard College, a highly respected merchant, of excellent family and connections, whose ancestors were among the earliest settlers of Rhode Island, where members of the family had filled the highest offices in the Colony and State. In the Revolutionary war, in consequence of his loyalty to Great Britain, he had forsaken his home, and had been proscribed and banished. After going to England, he established himself in business in the island of Antigua, where he married Rebecca, daughter of John Rose, a merchant, and provost-marshal-general of the island. After the peace he returned to Boston, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits, and was subsequently president of the Union Insurance Company.

In 1817, owing to the failure of his brother-in-law and intimate friend, Charles W. Greene, Mr. Haskins, with his brother Thomas, sustained such heavy losses that they were compelled to suspend payments, and make an arrangement with their creditors. At this time he received an offer from Mr. Lyman to go out to Canton, and carry on business there; but he declined it, and resumed business in Boston, which he continued till 1829,—a year of great financial disaster,—when he was a second time forced to suspend payment.

He had had more than enough of active mercantile life. Two years before, he had written to his brother-in-law, the Hon. Leonard Jarvis, of Maine : —

“ Trading business in Boston is done in the most keen manner,—so much so that a man must learn to live on air, and

almost be a rogue from necessity, to hold his own or get ahead there. For my own part, I am quite disgusted with it, and should be delighted to get clear, and attend to nothing else but tilling the ground ; but, at present, I have no reason to expect such good luck."

The desired opportunity now presented itself. Mr. Haskins withdrew from business, and henceforth devoted himself to agricultural pursuits and to the care of his extensive real estate.

No history of Mr. Haskins's business life would be complete without some mention of the extraordinary lawsuits by which he was harassed for many years. These suits grew out of a sale of land made in 1791 by Captain John Haskins, as administrator, and which was called in question, after a lapse of nineteen years, by members of the Holyoke family, heirs of the intestate. They were based on the most technical grounds, the principal point being the claim that administration had been granted in the wrong county, and that all the administrator's acts were consequently void. The suits were manifestly unjust ; and some of the heirs, to their credit, declined to be concerned in them. The point of law, however, was sustained by the courts, — notwithstanding the fact that the administrator had acted in perfect good faith, under the advice of counsel and of the Judge of Probate himself ; and that the heirs, who were in no way affected by the mistake, had had full knowledge of the proceedings at the time, and had acquiesced for so many years in the result. "All the equity," said Chief-Justice Parker more than once, "is on one side, and all the law on the other."

The first suit was begun February 20, 1810, and was brought against Captain John Haskins himself. It was twice tried ; and both juries gave verdicts for the defendant. In 1814 the suit was abated, in consequence of the death of one of the plaintiffs. Another long interval fol-

lowed; but in 1825 the litigation was renewed. Daniel Webster, Lemuel Shaw, and other eminent lawyers were retained as counsel by the defendants. Four more trials were had. Two juries again gave verdicts for the defendants; another disagreed, with only one man in favor of the plaintiff; and the fourth only gave the latter a verdict under peremptory instructions from the court. At last, in 1830, a compromise was effected; and, twenty years after the date of the first suit, this wearisome and expensive litigation was brought to an end. Even this, however, did not finally dispose of the entire case. A portion of the lands in question had been conveyed to the United States; and the contest was transferred from the Supreme Court room in Boston to the halls of Congress. The Holyoke heirs set forth their alleged claim to this land in repeated petitions, which were combated by Mr. Haskins and his brother Thomas. The case was before Congress for many years; and it was not till 1841 that a final settlement was made between the parties, and this great controversy was forever terminated.

Mr. Haskins lived twenty-three years after retiring from business. During this time, as has been said, much of his attention was engaged by the care of his real estate, in which he had begun to deal at an early age. He had inherited from his father property at the south end of Boston; and he made extensive purchases of land in Boston, South Boston, Roxbury, and Dorchester. He also owned lands in Waterford and Augusta, Maine, and in Strafford and Grafton Counties, New Hampshire. By judicious management, and by the great increase in the value of real estate in Boston and its vicinity, he was ultimately enabled to repair his business losses, and to acquire a handsome competence.

His agricultural pursuits embraced farming, stock-raising, and horticulture, for which he had a strong natural fondness. Through the earlier part of his life, his home

had been in Boston ; and he had therefore had little opportunity to gratify his tastes in these directions. He had, however, during many years, been interested in the raising of merino sheep, which were kept for him in the country.

In 1818 and 1819 he lived in Dorchester, and subsequently, for a short time, in Brookline. About the beginning of 1824 he purchased the Dillaway estate, on Back Street (now Walnut Avenue), in Roxbury, — a farm of nearly forty acres, on which he lived many years. In the management of this farm, he found occupation which was thoroughly congenial to him. It offered, like all Roxbury farms in that day, ample opportunity for those qualities of judgment and taste in its development which Mr. Haskins possessed in an eminent degree, and which he was never so happy as in exercising. Feeling that he had now established himself in a permanent home, he set himself with energy to cultivate and adorn the grounds. He did not, however, enter unintelligently upon the work ; but, while actively engaged in raising hay, vegetables, fruits, and flowers, in constructing green-houses and hotbeds, and in stocking his farm with cattle, bees, and domestic birds and animals of all kinds, he took pains to acquaint himself, by reading, with the most advanced results in agriculture and in the kindred departments in which he was interested. In particular, he devoted much care to the cultivation of fine grapes. A natural fondness for experimenting, combined with the same patriotic desire for commercial independence of the Old World which had actuated him in his attempts at sheep raising and cotton manufacturing, induced him to take part in the unsuccessful effort to introduce silkworms into New England, and in the raising of mulberry-trees for their food.

He was an excellent judge of cows, and originated the famous native "Cream-pot Breed." Chancing one day,

while on a journey to Mount Monadnock, to meet a drove of cattle, he was much struck with the appearance of one cow, which was of a dark maroon color, with short horns and large dewlap. He offered her owner forty dollars for her, which was regarded as a high price. The owner was at first reluctant to part with her, saying she was the best cow in the drove, but finally accepted the offer. She proved a remarkable animal, giving a great quantity of milk, the cream of which was of extraordinary thickness and richness, and could be stirred into butter in a few seconds. This cow became very famous; her descendants all had the same color and marks, and their milk and cream possessed the same qualities. Repeatedly the highest premiums were awarded to them at the Norfolk County cattle-shows at Dedham. Mr. Haskins eventually disposed of all the cows of this stock to Colonel Samuel Jaques, of the Ten-Hills Farm in Somerville, who demanded and received for them exceedingly high prices. Henry Clay is said to have purchased one at a cost of five hundred dollars. Unfortunately, in a few years the breed became extinct.

Mr. Haskins had looked forward to spending the remainder of his days on his Roxbury farm; but, during the remarkable rise in the value of real estate in 1836, he received from the Roxbury Land Company so large an offer for his house and thirty acres of his land that he felt obliged to accept it. Finding another, though smaller, estate on Columbia Street, Dorchester, for sale, he purchased it, and lived there for a few years. He subsequently returned to Roxbury. Here, on a commanding elevation, named by him "Buena Vista," — a part of the old farm of John Eliot, the apostle to the Indians, — he built a handsome stone house, in which he passed the last years of his life.

He died there, after an illness of some weeks, November 9, 1852, at the age of seventy-three years, and was

buried at Trinity Church, Boston. His wife survived him many years, dying at the house of her eldest son, Ralph, in Boston, August 2, 1873, in the eighty-eighth year of her age.

Mr. Haskins was a man of commanding stature and muscular frame, of dignified bearing and courteous manners. Possessed of great decision of character and remarkable perseverance, honorable and just in all dealings, exact and punctual in business, manly and self-reliant, a merchant of high standing, of sound judgment, and of great sagacity, he commanded the respect of all men. He was eminently social and domestic in his feelings and habits. He set a high value upon the friendship of those in whom he had confidence, and was always loyal and faithful to them, taking sincere pleasure in serving their interests, and always welcoming them with hearty hospitality. "I have felt," he once wrote sadly, "the full force of misfortune in the loss of property; but there is no keenness in that sensation to be compared to that of losing a *friend*."

Such a man could not fail to win the affection of a wide circle, who loved him for his warm heart and genial nature. His wife shared in his social disposition; and together they made their home a delightful spot, not only to their children, but to hosts of visitors, whose names were daily recorded in his diary, and many of whom were devoted and life-long friends. He was especially kind to young men, and took pleasure in assisting them in their efforts to obtain an education. Frequently applied to for advice, he was always ready to give judicious counsel to those who consulted him. Though the youngest of a large family, he became by his force of character its recognized head; and his brothers and sisters looked to him for advice and aid. His family feeling was unusually strong. His kinsmen were always welcome at his home; and he never failed to render them, in times of need, all the assistance in his power.

Says his nephew, Ralph Waldo Emerson, in a letter to Mr. Haskins's son : —

“Your father was the admired brother of my mother. I learned from her that I was named Ralph for him, — he being at that time far absent in the Pacific Ocean. Great was her joy in his safe return home ; and he met her affection by careful interest and advice in her affairs from year to year. His house was to my brothers and myself a joyful place. I recall many visits to it, particularly in Roxbury. I confess, too, that I was proud of his manly beauty in early times in the Boston Hussars, and which I think he never lost.”

He possessed a remarkable fund of general information; and read much on history, science, agriculture, and the various topics of the day. He always kept himself thoroughly informed on public affairs. He read regularly the official reports of Congressional proceedings, including the speeches of eminent statesmen of all political parties, — thus illustrating in his own practice the rule which he used to give to young men, “Always read both sides, and think for yourselves.”

An ardent patriot, he was proud of the history of the United States, and looked forward with enthusiasm and confidence to their future greatness. He took an especial interest in the navy, and used to relate how he had been an eye-witness of the famous sea-fight in Boston Bay, between the Chesapeake and Shannon, which he watched through a glass from the summit of Blue Hill. But he had no taste nor ambition for public office. He was accustomed to say that office-holders were the servants of the people, and he would rather remain one of the masters. In early life he was a decided Federalist, and denounced the war of 1812 as “foolish and wicked.” In later years his views were much changed, and he became a Democrat. He was not a partisan, however, and was opposed to any extension of slavery.

The son of such excellent parents, Mr. Haskins could

hardly fail to be a man of strong religious character. One who knew him well wrote of him: —

“His firm, unwavering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, quiet confidence in the wisdom that ordereth all things well, and child-like reliance on his Heavenly Father’s love, made his long life beautiful, peaceful, and happy. His remarkable faith upheld him in the day of trial, gave him patience during a long and distressing illness, and supported him when death was near.”

He was through life very regular in his attendance on Divine service; and in 1816, August 1, he records in his diary the fact that he “tarried with the communicants for the first time.” He was a member of Trinity Church, under the rectorship of the Rev. Dr. Gardiner, and subsequently took a leading part in the establishment of St. James’s Church, Roxbury, where he was confirmed by Bishop Griswold. At the organization of the church in 1832, he was chosen a member of the vestry, and united with the other members in the autumn of the same year in extending a call to the Rev. M. A. De Wolfe Howe, then a young man in deacon’s orders, since Bishop of Central Pennsylvania. In a charming letter to Mr. Haskins’s son, the Rev. David G. Haskins, the Bishop recalls the many difficulties and discouragements that beset the infant parish in its efforts to build a church, and the unruffled temper and calm persistency manifested by Mr. Haskins through all trials and differences: —

“He became the Chairman of the Building Committee; and, notwithstanding his own private affairs at that time demanded his careful attention, he gave to his duties, as connected with the church, an amount of thought, time, and labor which could not have been purchased, — the free tribute of his devotion to the Lord and his Household. The hindrances to the easy progress of the work were various and most trying. Subscribers failed to pay the amount of their pledges; the cost of the building ran far beyond the estimates of the architect; creditors grew impatient; the workmen were unreasonable; winter came on

prematurely, while the walls were yet unfinished. Yet Mr. Haskins's faith never faltered, his patience never flagged. Through good report and evil report he persevered, and the church was made ready for occupancy. Comfortless it was indeed, far too large for the little disheartened flock that shivered around its chancel. It was incomplete, overwhelmed with debt, and constantly threatened with attachment and sale. The people, estranged from one another, at length became alienated from their pastor. Not so my friend Mr. Haskins. The beginning of his confidence he held firm unto the end. He was loyal and true to the last. * * *

"Happy relations were restored, and the church became, under the blessing of God, relieved of nearly its entire indebtedness, and grew to be one of the most active and useful parishes of the diocese. Heaven blessed Mr. Haskins with more assured prosperity in his advancing years, and enabled him to aid yet more liberally in the rescue of the church which he had reared from its embarrassments. I shall never forget the benignity of his countenance, nor the calm satisfaction with which he contemplated the constant increase of the congregation, and the sure establishment of our communion in old Roxbury. After 1846 I saw him but occasionally. Age only mellowed his character. When I heard of his death, I felt that a true heart had been chilled that was never cold before, and that a Christian man had gone to his account, who had a record of earnest service, and as few of the sins of malevolence and strife and hasty speech to bewail as ever cling to poor, frail mortals when they approach the bar of God."

Mr. Haskins had five children, all but one of whom survived him; viz.:—

(1.) Rebecca Rose, born in Boston, January 27, 1815; died July 26, 1816.

(2.) Ralph, born in Boston, February 6, 1817; married (1) at Geneva, Illinois, May 19, 1841, to Miss Susan E. Mix, daughter of Captain W. P. Mix, U. S. N.; (2) at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, February 10, 1853, to Miss Maria Louisa Beall, daughter of John Hillery Beall, of Maryland; studied civil engineering, and afterwards became a farmer and real estate agent. Had two sons and three daughters.

(3.) David Greene, born in Boston, May 1, 1818 ; graduated at Harvard College, 1837 ; married at Portland, Maine, December 20, 1842, to Miss Mary Cogswell Daveis, eldest daughter of the Hon. Charles Stewart Daveis, of Portland. A clergyman of the Episcopal Church ; settled over parishes at Medford, Brighton, and Arlington, Massachusetts. Principal for some years of a young ladies' school in Boston ; elected Dean of the Theological School, and Commissioner of Education of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee ; S.T.D., Columbia College, 1877. Had two sons and three daughters.

(4.) Rebecca Greene, born in Brookline, Massachusetts, September 20, 1823 ; married at Roxbury, April 5, 1848, to Charles C. Jewett, Professor of Modern Languages at Brown University ; afterwards Librarian of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, District of Columbia, and Superintendent of the Boston Public Library. Had one son and two daughters.

(5.) Charles, born in Roxbury, July 3, 1826 ; married June 21, 1847, to Miss Adelaide C. Raphael, of Louisville, Kentucky. An architect ; died January 9, 1869, at Boston. Had one son and two daughters.





